[9th August 1955

of these facts, will the Government see that before the scheme of development of the Malnad area is implemented, the legislators especially those coming from Malabar are given an opportunity to submit their suggestions and discuss those proposals which are going to be implemented? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall consider that suggestion."

Small-pox in Kurumbranad taluk, Malabar.

* 2028 *Q.*—SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons in Kurumbranad taluk, Malabar, were attacked by small-pox from 1st October 1954 till now;

(*b*) how many of them died; and

(*c*) what steps the Government have taken to prevent the spread of the disease?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) 345 persons up to 26th March 1955, Sir.

" (*b*) 129 persons.

" (*c*) Preventive measures such as vaccinations and re-vaccinations, house isolation and disinfection of houses, clothing and other materials were carried out. Educative lectures were given on preventive measures. Patients were treated with carbolised vaseline and sulphanomide ointment. Achromycene and Penicillin injections were given where necessary. Rice and rice gruel and milk powder were distributed to the deserving. "

SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that small-pox is still prevalent in some of the villages in Kurumbranad taluk and whether the Government will make any inquiry into the matter? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There are a few stray cases of small-pox in Malabar, but not anywhere else. There has been no infection in the Badagara Panchayat since the 1st February 1955."

SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" Is it a fact that the Public Health Department had not taken sufficient steps to prevent the spread of the disease in the interior parts of the taluk and may I know whether there were no sufficient transport facilities? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Whatever steps were necessary were promptly taken."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The casualities could have been very much reduced had the Government and the local

9th August 1955]

administration taken proper preventive steps immediately after the disease appeared in epidemic form. But no additional staff was appointed or suitable measures were taken immediately after that. May I know why that was not done?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"In addition to the usual staff, an additional staff of 1 Reserve Health Assistant and 7 Special Health Assistants and 2 Special Health Inspectors were employed in this taluk."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR:—"When there was the attack of small-pox in Kurumbranad taluk especially in Badagara and its surroundings, the District Board President, the Member of the constituency concerned and other social workers joined together and did their utmost to give relief to the people and to bring the disease under control. But, at the same time, for want of staff and concrete help from the Government, they could not do much. The help which they were seeking from the Government was delayed. As a result, the disease could not be completely brought under control. So, when the local board authorities, the district boards and panchayat boards, request the Government in such circumstances for help, will the Government rush with help without making any delay so that the lives of the people may be saved?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Immediate steps are taken in all such cases."

DR. K. B. MENON:—"The question is not about the appointment of these officers. It is about the belated appointment of these officers. Will the Government see that in future such delays do not occur when epidemics break out?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I would like to know the basis for this complaint."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP:—"Section 53 of the Public Health Act says that on the outbreak or threatened outbreak of the epidemic, additional staff has to be appointed. Now, when there was outbreak of small-pox in this area, when was this additional staff appointed?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Additional staff was appointed immediately."

Assignment of land for building a school.

* 2029 *Q.*—SRI M. JAGANNATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was received on 14th July 1952 from one Sri A. Gopalaswamy of Saram village, Tindivanam taluk, South Arcot district, regarding the assignment of 14½ cents of natham lands in that village in R.S. No. 202 for building an Aided Elementary school; and